

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 517

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. James Montgomery Kyker.

WHEREAS, it was with a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our State learned of the passing of James Montgomery Kyker, a gentleman of the highest honor and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kyker served his country courageously as a member of the United States Army, 104th Infantry Division I, during World War II; he fought bravely on the European front, including the Battle of the Bulge and the liberation of the Mittlebau Dora Concentration Camp in Nordhausen, Germany; and

WHEREAS, after his military service, James Kyker devoted his time and efforts to helping fellow veterans as a member of the Blount County Memorial Post 5154, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Captain Emerson J. Lones Post 13 of the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, a talented public servant, Mr. Kyker served on the Blount County Commission for more than twenty-five years, and was elected to represent Blount and Loudon counties in the Tennessee House of Representatives during the Eighty-Sixth General Assembly and as a delegate to the 1977 Limited State Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, James Kyker served the citizens of Blount County on the Board of Commissioners, as chairman, chairman pro tem, and a member of the Budget and Finance committee, Agricultural Extension Committee, and the Veterans Affairs Committee; and

WHEREAS, he brought his considerable skill to bear as a member of the Blount Memorial Hospital board; and

WHEREAS, James Kyker generously donated over 170 acres of land to the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency so that the citizens of Blount County could enjoy and learn about the beauty of nature; and

WHEREAS, a keen and skilled golfer, Mr. Kyker enjoyed many golfing trips with his friends and scored several hole-in-ones, including a remarkable shot at Wallace Hills' 160-yard sixth hole using a six iron; and

WHEREAS, James Kyker, a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and a York Rite Mason, was a member of the Mountain View Masonic Lodge #519 for sixty years during which time he served as past master and past patron of the Mountain View #358, Order of the Eastern Star; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kyker was a member of the Williamson Chapel United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his dear wife, Ruth Hamilton Kyker, James Kyker will be greatly missed by his daughter and son-in-law, Marilyn Jane and Thomas Earl Cate; nephew, Vernon Ray Kyker; niece, Addie Jo Jones; and beloved dog, Whiskers; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years of his illustrious life, James Montgomery Kyker was a courageous defender of his country, a devoted public servant, and a man of integrity and compassion; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional person; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of James Montgomery Kyker, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and stalwart commitment to the people of the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Kyker.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.